

APPENDIX C

PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROJECTS

These are descriptions of the partnership projects funded for calendar year 2003, which are described and analyzed in more detail in Chapter 3.

Alameda County Bar Volunteer Legal Services Corporation (VLSC) and East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC). A Collaborative of VLSC and EBCLC provided services in two separate self-help centers in Alameda County during the 2003 grant year. At the Wiley E. Manual Self-Help Center in downtown Oakland, the two providers offer housing law assistance. EBCLC provides one-on-one advice and forms assistance to low-income tenants in defending all phases of unlawful detainer actions and in prosecuting rent board petitions. VLSC provides attorney assistance to low-income landlords. At the Fremont Hall of Justice during grant year 2003, VLSC provided drop-in advice, individual appointments, and self-help clinics in the areas of family law, debt collection, and other consumer-related matters.

Bay Area Legal Aid. The *Domestic Violence Pro Per Clinic*, serving Contra Costa County, is located in the courthouse in the city of Richmond. An attorney sees self represented litigants who are filing or responding to domestic violence–related restraining order applications, assisting people who drop in on an individual basis to complete the applications and review the pleadings to ensure they are appropriate for filing. The project operates in partnership with STAND! Against Domestic Violence, a community-based organization serving battered women.

Central California Legal Services. The *Rural Access Partnership* increases access to courts for victims of domestic violence who are rural residents of Fresno and Tulare Counties. The project uses technology (video-conferencing equipment) and co-locates staff at rural sites and the family law facilitator’s office. A strong community education component complements the direct services. In Fresno County staff are at three sites, two in rural communities. An attorney is placed with the family law facilitator in Fresno and in Selma to provide services to individuals in need of a restraining order. In Huron, video-conferencing equipment facilitates access for rural residents of western Fresno County.

Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance. The *Pro-Se Legal Assistance Project* serving Kern County provides legal assistance with domestic violence filings to low-income self-represented litigants. The project uses a part-time bilingual Spanish-speaking paralegal to assist individuals

in seeking relief through restraining orders. This work is done out of both the Delano and the Shafter courthouses. Respondents to domestic violence petitions are served by the family law facilitator.

Inland Counties Legal Services. The *Family Law Access Partnership Project* serving Riverside County is in partnership with the Public Service Law Corporation of Riverside County and the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association. Project attorneys provide legal assistance to self-represented indigent family law litigants at the Family Law Assistance Center in Riverside and at the Family Law Assistance Center at the Larson Justice Center in Indio. This project assists Spanish-speaking litigants in accessing the family law court.

Inland Counties Legal Services. The *Proyecto Ayuda Legal/Legal Help Project* in San Bernardino County provides legal information, form completion, and referrals to self-represented litigants in family, guardianship, and eviction cases. Services are focused on monolingual Spanish and limited English speaking persons at the San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga, and Victorville Facilitation Center offices.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. The *Inglewood Self-Help Legal Access Center* in Los Angeles County was opened to serve the high number of unrepresented litigants (85–90 percent) utilizing the Inglewood courthouse. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors helps fund the self-help center, which is modeled after a similar center in Van Nuys. The partnership grant supplements the staff of one attorney with a paralegal and a screener. Staff helps litigants with any civil problem they bring in, the majority of which are landlord-tenant and family law issues, civil harassment temporary restraining orders, and case filings in small claims court.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. The *Torrance Family Law Clinic* in Los Angeles County has expanded a domestic violence clinic located in the Torrance Courthouse to address a full range of family law issues. Many domestic violence clients have other family law problems that are now addressed by counsel and advice, preparation of forms, and referrals. The project serves low-income people in the communities of the Southwest Judicial District who seek help with domestic violence, child abduction, paternity, custody and visitation, spousal and child support, divorce, and domestic violence–related immigration issues.

Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara. The *Self-Represented Litigant Resource Center* in Santa Barbara County consists of two centers, situated in the law libraries of the two county courthouses. The purpose is to assist self-represented litigants in understanding and handling their cases. Each center is staffed by a supervising attorney and equipped with computers, books, and self-help materials. Volunteers from the legal community and the local law school assist in the delivery of services, which are free to anyone who has filed a case in the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County.

Legal Aid of the North Bay. The *Legal Self-Help Center of Marin/Centro Auto-Asistencia Legal de Marin* grew out of Marin County’s Self-Represented Litigant Planning Team (made up

of representatives from some 20 organizations, including the Superior Court of Marin County and Legal Aid of the North Bay). The self-help center is part of the new Marin Justice Center, where it plays an integral part, not only in providing a complete array of information services to self-represented litigants but also in screening users for direct referral to other legal assistance agencies and services throughout Marin County.

Legal Aid Society of San Diego. The *Family Law Center for Legal Assistance* in San Diego County supplements the services of the family law facilitator in the south county and east county courts where the facilitator's services are provided only part time. As a result, services are now available five days a week in one court and four days a week in the other. The additional staff is bilingual in English and Spanish, and provides a full range of self-help services in family law..

Legal Aid Society of San Diego. The *Unlawful Detainer Assistance Program* is located at the east county courthouse in San Diego County and in the public law library nearby. The project runs a legal clinic five half-days a week, staffed by an attorney and paralegal. Together the advocates help financially eligible tenants complete fee waivers and answers to unlawful detainer petitions and related consumer issues.

Legal Services of Northern California. The *Mother Lode Pro Per Project* consists of an attorney and paralegal who circuit-ride on an established schedule to nine different self-help service centers established in cooperation with the courts in five counties: Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras. Services include consultations on legal procedures, self-help materials, and assistance with legal forms and documents in all areas of civil law, with emphasis on unmet needs in family law.

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. The *Lancaster Self-Help Legal Access Center* in Los Angeles County is a court-based self-help center that serves the remote desert communities of the Antelope Valley. The Antelope Valley Center is a partnership between the court, the bar, legal aid, and educational institutions, assisting low-income community members with family law, housing issues, and general civil matters. Services include one-on-one assistance, workshops, and self-help materials. The Antelope Valley Center is open two days a week.

Public Counsel. The *Pro Per Guardianship Legal Clinics Program* works in collaboration with the Superior Court of Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Public Counsel operates legal clinics at superior courts throughout Los Angeles County to assist self-represented litigants with guardianships and other related issues. Public Counsel created a user-friendly guide to assist litigants with guardianship proceedings, including form pleadings, filing instructions, notice requirements, and advice on appearing in court. At the clinics, on-site

computer technology is provided to assist litigants with completing the applicable forms (in English and Spanish).

San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. The *Domestic Violence Prevention Project* is a collaboration of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP) and the Superior Court of San Diego to assist domestic violence victims in obtaining legal protection and referral for counseling, shelter, support, and ongoing legal services as appropriate. The project employs the clinic model of service delivery whereby SDVLP staff and volunteers provide legal advice and assistance to victims in completing the domestic violence restraining order application which they will file themselves. Services are offered at the court's Madge Bradley Building in central San Diego and at its North and East County Regional Centers.

San Francisco Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Program. The *Family Law Assisted Self-Help Project* provides self-help services to low-income parties in family law matters, enabling them to represent themselves better in court. The clinics provide clients with papers drafted for them by clinic staff and volunteers. The clinics also educate clients about how to pursue their cases and how to conduct effective self-representation in court. Follow-up clinics and videos on various areas of family law ensure that the clients have ongoing support for self-representation.

Sonoma County Legal Aid. The *Self-Help Access Center*, located at the Sonoma County main court complex, provides direct and immediate assistance to low-income litigants as well as referral to more in-depth services provided by affiliate organizations. The center features a comprehensive library of self-help materials, instruction packets, videotapes, and periodic information workshops and clinics conducted by volunteer attorneys. The center's staff attorney provides individual consultation and assistance as appropriate. The center's coordinator, assisted by interns, prepares required legal forms. Services are offered in the areas of family law, elder law, housing, personal injury, and probate.